

Message Text

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13

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 SCA-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-04 PA-04 USIE-00 DRC-01

CPR-02 INRE-00 EUR-25 SNM-02 JUSE-00 DEAE-00 /073 W

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O 100309Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2661

UNCLAS MEXICO 5777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, MX

SUBJECT: ALLEGED MISTREATMENT AMERICAN PRISONERS--
HUNGER STRIKE BEGINS

REF: MEXICO 5737

1. FONMIN RABASA FORWARDED NUMBER OF STATEMENTS TO
AMB SIGNED IN EARLY MAY BY AMERICAN PRISONERS IN WHICH
THEY DENY THAT THEY ARE VICTIMS OF ABUSE, EXTORTION
OR MISTREATMENT IN PRISON.

2. THIS MORNING, CG AND CHIEF, SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES,
UPON FONMIN'S AND WARDEN'S STRONG URGING, MET AT
LECUMBERRI PRISON WITH 72 AMERICANS, PRACTICALLY ALL
IMPRISONED ON DRUG CHARGES, TO HEAR COMPLAINTS THEY WANTED
BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT. (SIX CANADIAN
PRISONERS AND CANADIAN CONSULAR OFFICER ALSO PRESENT.)
THEIR SPOKESMAN, DEAN BROWN, EMPHASIZED THAT "PROBLEMS
OF PRISONERS DO NOT LIE WITHIN" LECUMBERRI. RATHER,
HE SAID, THEY ARE "SPECIFICALLY PROTESTING THAT (THEY)
ARE NO LONGER PREPARED TO REMAIN AT THE MERCY OF INFLUENCES
THAT PREVENT (THEM) FROM OBTAINING THAT JUSTICE THAT ANY
HUMAN BEING DESERVES. WE HAVE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO
SHOW THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY IN MEXICO HAS FORCED THE MEXICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM
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TO DENY US DUE PROCESS." SPOKESMAN ASKED WHAT EMBASSY

PLANNED TO DO ABOUT IT AND WHEN.

3. PRISONERS WERE TOLD EMPHATICALLY THAT ALLEGATIONS OF UNDUE U.S. INFLUENCE NOT TRUE. CG CONFIRMED THAT INDEED THERE EXISTS INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE COOPERATIVE U.S.-MEXICAN ANTI-DRUG EFFORT, BUT AMERICAN CITIZENS' IMPRISONMENT RESULTED FROM THEIR VIOLATION OF AND DECISIONS RENDERED UNDER MEXICAN LAW. CG GAVE ASSURANCES THAT IF SUBMITTED BY PRISONERS CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF DENIAL OF DUE PROCESS WOULD BE INVESTIGATED AND ACTION TAKEN TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. CG SAID, HOWEVER, THAT NO ASSURANCE COULD BE GIVEN AS TO TIMEFRAME, SINCE THIS DEPENDED ON NUMBER OF FACTORS OUTSIDE OF EMBASSY CONTROL.

4. SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT PRISONERS WOULD MEET LATER TO VOTE ON WHETHER OR NOT UNDERTAKE HUNGER STRIKE "TO BRING (THEIR) PLIGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE." EARLY EVENING, CG SPOKE BY PHONE TO SPOKESMAN WHO CONFIRMED THAT AFTER OVERWHELMING VOTE STRIKE HAD BEGUN AT 4:00 P.M.

5. EMBASSY WILL RESPOND TO PRESS INQUIRIES WITH DENIAL ALLEGATIONS.
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